



*Dining hall, Sheppard Air Force Base*

A period of

## **REMARKABLE EXPANSION**

came to the Corps of Engineers in World War II. At Tulsa and Denison, the war emergency forced rapid assembly of crack teams of thousands of engineers, technical and support personnel, contractors, and suppliers.

Engineers and workers with diverse skills had to be recruited and absorbed into the Engineers' organizational structure, eliminated if they did not fit, and most of them gradually released from employment as their tasks were completed.

One method of retaining key personnel was commissioning them as officers in the Army, even if they had no previous military experience. On Sept. 30, 1942, there were 51 Army officers on the Tulsa District staff, including many who would be among the most able civilian leaders in the District during subsequent decades.

The still-infant Tulsa District had grown to 499 workers by the last day of 1940. Three months later the number was 602. On June 30, 1941, the total had reached 800. The peak reported employment was 2,691 on June 30, 1942. By Dec. 31, 1943, the figure was down to 1,518; by Mar. 31, 1945, down to 831, the day before the two districts merged. Denison District employment peaked at 5,200 in July 1942, then dropped to about 875 a few days before the merger.